

TennCare CHOICES in Long-Term Services and Supports

TennCare **CHOICES** offers services to help a person live in their own home or in the community. These services are called Home and Community Based Services or HCBS. The services can be provided in the home, on the job, or other places in the community to assist with daily living activities and allow people to continue living safely at home, and to work and be actively involved in their local communities. CHOICES also provides care in a nursing home if this is needed.

There are three “groups” in the CHOICES program. Each offers benefits based on the support needs and setting where the services are being provided.

Group 1 is for individuals who receive services in a nursing facility.

Group 2 is for seniors (age 65 years or older) or adults (age 21 or older) with physical disabilities who qualify for care in a nursing home, but choose to receive their care in a home or community based setting.

Group 3 is for seniors (age 65 or older) or adults (age 21 or older) with physical disabilities who do not qualify for the level of care provided in a nursing home, but without HCBS, are “at risk” of nursing home placement. Group 3 members qualify for a more moderate package of benefits to prevent or delay the need for care in a nursing facility.

Since implementing the CHOICES program in 2010:

- 7,000 fewer people are served in nursing homes each year.
- 9,000 more people have access to in-home care each year.
- The waiting list for in-home care has been eliminated for older adults and adults with physical disabilities.

For more details about the CHOICES program, eligibility requirements and covered services, please visit the TennCare Long-Term Services and Supports website at <https://www.tn.gov/tenncare/long-term-services-supports.html>.



TN

Division of
TennCare

LTSS

Employment and Community First CHOICES

Employment and Community First CHOICES is a program that promotes employment, community living and community involvement, and as much independence as possible for people of any age who have an intellectual or developmental disability (ID or DD, collectively I/DD). This includes people who need lots of support for intellectual, physical, health or mental health challenges.

At a Glance:

- In order to ensure services are provided in the most cost-effective way, the program offers different benefit groups where the services offered are based on the needs of people in that group. Additionally, there are limits on enrollment, benefits, and expenditures.
- An array of 14 employment services creates a pathway to employment (and less reliance on public benefits), even for people with the most significant needs.
- Value-based reimbursement for employment services helps to ensure that employment outcomes are achieved. It also increases members' independence over time by aligning incentives to support fading paid supports.

In the 2 years since the program began:

- More people with ID have been enrolled into home and community based services (HCBS) than in the previous 6 years.
- For the first time in the state's history, people with Developmental Disabilities who do not also have Intellectual Disabilities have access to these services.
- Almost 90% of the people have been enrolled in a category focused on employment.
- The annualized cost of HCBS is less than half the average of previous programs for individuals with I/DD.
- Employment outcomes are well above the national average.
- Average wages earned by individuals with I/DD in the program exceed minimum wage by more than \$1/hour.

Supports & Services

Employment and Community First CHOICES offers **many different kinds of services** to help people with I/DD. Some services include:

- Job Finding and Job Coaching Services
- Community Integration Support Services
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Community Transportation
- Minor Home Modifications
- Personal Assistance

There are also services to support families caring for a family member with I/DD.

A complete list of services is available online at: <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tenncare/documents/MemberBenefitTable.pdf>

Employment and Community First CHOICES has an impressive list of more than **200 employers** who are committed to employing people enrolled in this program. Employers include the companies listed below and many more.

